

WASHINGTON, DC - Today, the House Armed Services Committee approved several amendments by Congressman Todd Akin (R-MO), one of which authorized the purchase by the United States Navy of eight more Super Hornets. These aircraft which will help address a looming fighter shortfall for the Navy's carrier fleet and are in addition to the approximately 124 Super Hornets already authorized through the multiyear procurement authority given by legislation that was added by an amendment offered by Akin in the FY2010 NDAA.

Regarding the adoption of Akin's amendment authorizing the purchase of eight more Super Hornets, Akin stated:

"I am very encouraged to see my amendment approved to authorize eight more F 18 Super Hornet fighters to address the serious fighter shortfall which looms in the not so distant future.

"The Super Hornet is a fantastic aircraft that when purchased through a multiyear contract basis provides millions in savings to taxpayers. It is a tremendous aircraft both from an engineering, production perspective as well as in theatre as a proven combat fighter.

Regarding the FY 2011 NDAA overall, Congressman Akin stated:

"Although we were not entirely successful in addressing every issue of concern, I do believe that on balance, the work of the committee is a worthy one that will benefit our troops.

"As a cosponsor of the Miller amendment requiring a full investigation by the Inspector General's Office into the alleged outing by the ACLU of covert CIA agents, I will continue to push for a meaningful and appropriate response to these alleged crimes that, if true, rise to the level of treason. I will continue to call for a full investigation until America learns the truth in this matter.

"While we improved the underlying legislation, I remain concerned that the Administration's under-funding of defense is creating vulnerabilities. In particular, I am concerned with the lack of

a robust commitment to missile defense, a weakening in overall nuclear defense posture and the lack of a full address of a looming fighter shortfall for our carrier fleet.”